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Terrorism Review

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27 December 1984

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Terrorism Review

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This review is published every other week by the Directorate of Intelligence. Appropriate articles produced by other elements of the CIA as well as by other agencies of the US Intelligence Community will be considered for publication. Comments and queries are welcome and may be directed to the Executive Editor

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Terrorism Review

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Perspective**Iranian-Sponsored Terrorism in Western Europe**

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A number of recent developments suggest that, increasingly, Iranian-sponsored terrorists are bringing their acts to Western Europe. Although our information is limited, operations in Western Europe by Iranian-backed terrorists seem to be growing more frequent. Tighter security around Western embassies and other installations in the Middle East has undoubtedly complicated the staging of terrorist attacks there, thus encouraging the terrorists to look elsewhere. Western Europe ought to seem attractive to them. They face few restrictions on travel to or within West European countries. Moreover, throughout Western Europe the network of Iranian diplomatic posts and Iranian-sponsored cultural and religious centers is extensive and well placed to draw on the sizable expatriate Iranian and Arab student and worker populations there.

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Western Europe also offers an array of tempting targets. The region is home to numerous anti-Khomeini exiles, including members of the former royal family and its supporters, as well as various minority, democratic, and leftist elements. There are also numerous diplomatic installations and personnel of countries Iran considers enemies, such as Iraq, France, and the United States.

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Iranian-sponsored terrorists have staged at least 10 attacks in Western Europe this year, compared with only two in 1982 and four in 1983. Arrests of suspected terrorists have probably prevented a good number more. Following are just a few of the incidents involving Iranian-affiliated terrorists in Western Europe so far this year:

7 February	The Shah's former martial law administrator was killed in Paris, apparently by Iranian agents.
18 May	Two Iranian-trained operatives traveling to Madrid were arrested at a Rome airport while carrying explosives.
1 July	Three Lebanese Shias were arrested in France as suspected Iranian agents; in May they had been expelled from the United Kingdom for plotting to kill an anti-Khomeini Iranian journalist there.
23 July	Four Iranians were arrested in Madrid for allegedly plotting to hijack a Saudi airliner.
31 July	A Kuwaiti businessman was shot and wounded in Spain; Islamic Jihad claimed credit.

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14 September A Saudi tourist was killed in Spain; Islamic Jihad claimed credit.

22 November Seven Lebanese, some of whom were linked to Islamic Amal, were arrested by Italian police in Rome; they were apparently planning an attack against the US Embassy there.

6 December Four vehicles from the Iraqi Embassy in Athens were bombed.



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Several West European governments have been concerned enough about Iranian-sponsored terrorism to take specific preventive action. In December 1983, for example, the French Government closed the Iranian Cultural Center in Paris, expelling 11 Iranians—including three Iranian diplomats—for “unethical activities.” The Governments of Spain and the United Kingdom have arrested or expelled Iranians or other Muslims believed to be involved in terrorist activities.



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Iran's aggressively anti-Western outlook, coupled with its rejection of Western standards of international conduct, allows it to justify—to itself and its supporters, at least—the aggressive use of terrorist tactics against its perceived enemies wherever they are vulnerable and the operational climate is suitable, which is certainly the case in Western Europe. Moreover, Iran's limited conventional military capabilities make terrorism an effective alternative. And after decades of what Tehran views as Western attacks on the Middle East and its traditional values, a terrorist campaign in Western Europe offers the Islamic Republican Government a way not only to exact revenge, but to demonstrate its hatred and contempt. Consequently, although the Middle East will remain the main arena for Iranian-inspired terrorism, we expect Iranian activity in Western Europe to continue to increase.



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Secret**Highlights****Key Indicators****Western Europe****Open Season on NATO Pipelines?**

In Belgium on 11 December, the Communist Combat Cells (CCC) planted six bombs that damaged two NATO pipelines. The bombs were constructed of plastic explosive and placed on aboveground sections of pipe. In claiming credit for the bombings, the CCC stated that "the war against NATO has become the main thrust" of their actions. [REDACTED]

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On 18 December in Spain, three bomb blasts caused \$90,000 in damage to a pipeline serving US and Spanish airbases. The bombings took place at widely separated points along the pipeline that stretches for 780 kilometers between Rota and Zaragoza. Another pipeline between Zaragoza and Taragona, which does not carry military fuel, was also bombed. The ETA belatedly (and not entirely believably) claimed credit for the bombings, saying the attacks had been directed against the Spanish military. [REDACTED]

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In West Germany, a NATO pipeline was bombed last June, apparently by the Revolutionary Cells. Red Army Faction (RAF) documents confiscated last summer indicated that the RAF, too, was considering attacks on NATO pipelines. It is possible that a coordinated international terrorist effort to attack NATO via its vulnerable fuel links is under way, but this rash of pipeline bombings may also reflect nothing more than independent copycat behavior on the part of several leftwing groups. [REDACTED]

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Significant Developments**Spain****GRAPO Turns to Extortion**

The small leftwing October First Antifascist Resistance Group (GRAPO) has switched from bank robbery to extortion to finance itself. In recent months, GRAPO has sent hundreds of letters to businessmen demanding payment of a "revolutionary tax," and, according to a Spanish business organization, many are apparently paying up to avoid trouble. Trouble may take the form of kidnaping. GRAPO has been kidnaping three or four midlevel executives each month, releasing them in exchange for ransoms on the order of \$20,000, paid either by their firms or by their families. [REDACTED]

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The possibility that GRAPO is using these funds to rebuild its terrorist capabilities is of concern to us because it has attacked US interests in the past. The Spanish Government has repeatedly underestimated both the resilience of the group and the terrorist threat it poses. [REDACTED]

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Corsica**Record Crowd Demonstrates Against Terrorism**

On 6 December public resentment against the Corsican National Liberation Front (FNLC) boiled over at a demonstration of 30,000 people in Ajaccio against "separatism and terrorism." It was the largest demonstration ever to take place in Corsica. The popular mood is also critical of what is seen as the government's lack of action against the FNLC, which puts pressure on the police and security officials to begin cutting constitutional corners in their counterterrorism efforts. On 7 December, French Interior Minister Joxe paid a surprise visit to Ajaccio to assure local officials of the continued support of the central government. []

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Lebanon**Confessional Leaders Escape Injury in Ambiguous Car Bombing**

On 12 December a booby-trapped car exploded in West Beirut near the home of Education Minister Salim al-Hoss, while Druze leader Walid Junblatt and moderate Shia leader Nabih Barri were visiting him. The blast killed the two persons in the car and wounded another 14 at a nearby Druze religious center. The "Yazbeki Revolutionary Organization," a group not previously heard from, asserted that the attack was to protest Junblatt's "selling out" of the Druze community to Israel and Syria. Druze and Amal spokesmen, however, claimed the bomb was targeted against al-Hoss and Barri. []

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The fact that the two persons in the car were killed suggests that they may have been the targets; alternatively, they may have been terrorists whose bomb detonated accidentally or prematurely. In Beirut the possibilities are endless. []

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Chile**Stock Exchange Bombed**

At noon on 11 December, a briefcase bomb exploded inside the Santiago stock exchange, injuring 21 persons, six seriously. The bomb, triggered by a clock mechanism, had been placed under a bench inside the market-quotation viewing area, which is open to the public. Most of the injured were women and older persons. In contrast to most of the recent bombings in Chile, which have been designed to avoid injuring anyone, this one was obviously intended to cause a large number of casualties. []

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Sudan**SPLA Captures 14 Government Officials**

On 6 December in Bentiu, the provincial governor and 13 other government officials were kidnaped by members of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army (SPLA). The officials had been on their way to meet certain SPLA soldiers who had offered to surrender, evidently as a ploy. The temerity of the rebels and the success of their operation demonstrates how tenuous government influence has become in the south. []

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South Africa**Favored Challenger to Soweto Mayor Assassinated**

On 6 December in Soweto, Councilman Edward Manyosi was shot and killed by unknown persons shortly after leaving a party caucus that had virtually assured him the mayoralty. He had been forewarned of a possible attack and was traveling in a convoy accompanied by bodyguards who were to keep him in a safe place until the election, which was to take place in a few hours. On the way, however, his vehicle was fired upon from another car carrying four occupants. []

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Manyosi headed a faction that had recently broken away from the ruling party and was widely expected to defeat the incumbent in the mayoral race. This fact, along with the timing of the incidents, points to the incumbent's supporters as the likely perpetrators, although Manyosi is reported to have had many personal enemies. In possibly related incidents, a fellow councilor was also attacked, and a third is missing []

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Swaziland**Assassination of Police Superintendent Blamed on ANC**

On 7 December, police superintendent Petros Shiba was shot and killed while getting into his car. Although the African National Congress (ANC) has denied responsibility, the police believe the assassins were from the ANC. Earlier this year, the police arrested ANC guerrillas and tried to halt ANC arms smuggling in Swaziland. In addition, the police assert, the names of Shiba and other police officers were on an ANC hit list. The ANC denies there is any such list. A week after the incident, according to press reports, one of the assassins was killed in a firefight with the police and another suspect had been picked up. []

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The Status of the Colombian Cease-Fire [REDACTED]

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Building on cease-fire accords signed earlier this year, the government recently opened formal negotiations with three of the country's four guerrilla groups. Although it continues to appear unlikely that a lasting peace will result, the cease-fire should hold for at least the next several months, because both sides believe it serves their short-term interests. [REDACTED]

President Betancur, who has made a settlement with the guerrillas his major priority, is determined to prevent the truce from unraveling before he leaves office in 1986. Last month he authorized government spokesmen to initiate a "national dialogue" with the guerrillas to focus on proposals for sweeping reforms in such areas as rural land ownership, education, labor, public health, and public services. [REDACTED]

Colombia's rapidly growing economic problems, however, have weakened Betancur's ability to fund reform and aid programs. Determination by congress to protect its legislative prerogatives also has restricted his maneuvering room on concessions to the guerrillas. Consequently, little progress has been made to date, and Betancur is facing mounting criticism from important interest groups for coddling the insurgents. [REDACTED]

Most notably, senior military officers worry that the guerrillas will be more formidable when the insurgency resumes because they will have had time to rebuild their forces, a development the military views as inevitable. Having failed in earlier efforts to denigrate Betancur publicly, however, military leaders now emphasize their support for the government's peace efforts. This change probably reflects a judgment by the high command that the military's public stature will be enhanced—and its budget increased—if the insurgents are blamed for causing the cease-fire to collapse. [REDACTED]

Guerrilla Strategy

[REDACTED] all three guerrilla groups that have accepted the cease-fire are openly

strengthening their political bases, while simultaneously preparing for a return to hostilities. [REDACTED]

The 19th of April Movement (M-19) has taken the lead on the political front by naming Ivan Ospina as its candidate for the 1986 presidential election, holding rallies, and working to strengthen labor support. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] M-19, like other guerrilla groups, continues to kidnap wealthy private citizens and extort money. [REDACTED]

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Moreover, an M-19 leader has publicly urged traffickers to carry out threats to kill US Embassy personnel. [REDACTED]

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The Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC)—the country's largest insurgent group—recently transformed its cease-fire agreement with the government into a one-year truce. It was probably prompted to do so by military pressure and concern that the M-19 might upstage it in the bid for political power. The group's leaders plan to create a political party and reportedly will spearhead efforts by the Communist Party to unite the country's leftist forces into a political front for the 1986 elections. [REDACTED]

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The People's Liberation Army (EPL)—the smallest and most volatile of all the signatories of the cease-fire agreement—recently withdrew from the national dialogue, citing what it termed a lack of political guarantees, unjustified arrests, and government accusations that some of its members are involved in drug trafficking. Although the group relented from an earlier threat to end the cease-fire, the belligerence of its leaders makes it unlikely that the group will even go through the motions of participating in the negotiations.

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Outlook

The cease-fire is likely to continue for at least several months because of the importance Betancur places on his reputation as a peacemaker and the apparent belief by most guerrilla leaders that they need more time to rebuild their organizations. Nevertheless, the President's political skills will be tested increasingly as he responds to growing public impatience with continuing rural violence and with the demands of firebrand guerrilla leaders, some of whom already are threatening to resume the armed struggle.

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Ecuador's Prototerrorists: Alfaro Viva, Carajo []

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Alfaro Vive, Carajo (AVC) is the most prominent and active radical group in Ecuador. It has some unusual attributes, compared with typical South American insurgent groups. To date, most of its operations have essentially been harmless publicity stunts, and it claims to be populist rather than Marxist in ideology. But there are indications that the group has been acquiring weapons and seeking support from foreign leftwing terrorist groups as well as from states such as Libya and Nicaragua. [] the group has been contemplating some ambitious kidnappings and hostage-taking operations over the Christmas holidays suggest that in effect it is an adolescent terrorist group that may be evolving into a serious threat. []

with the Central University of Ecuador, where the group has probably been trying to recruit students.

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[] AVC had two wings—one responsible for raising money through armed robberies and another working to destabilize the government through strikes and demonstrations.

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Roughly translated, Alfaro Vive, Carajo means "Alfaro Lives, Damn It." Eloy Alfaro, who led an unsuccessful revolution against an oppressive military dictatorship in the early 1900s, is a hero to a broad swath of the Ecuadorean population. By identifying themselves with his exploits, the members of the group seek to attract widespread popular support. Originally, they called themselves Monteneros de Alfaro—Alfaro's Mountain Men. []

Organization and Membership

Some evidence suggests that the group was established as early as 1981, but it did not announce its presence until 1983 when, with typical bravado—if not chutzpah—AVC members stole a bust of Alfaro from the headquarters of the Liberal Party as well as two swords used in his revolution, which were on display in a museum. []

[] it was not until early 1984 that most of the current members joined the group. Many of them came from a dissident faction of another leftwing group, the Revolutionary Leftist Front. []

[] we estimate that the group currently numbers 100 to 200, mostly males and females in their mid-20s who have been described by witnesses to their acts as composed, intelligent, and well dressed. One AVC leader is reportedly connected

Ideology, Goals, and Activities

The AVC espouses "anti-imperialist" and anti-US views similar to those held by radical leftwing groups in other countries, but, unlike most of them, it denies it is Marxist in ideology. It demands agrarian reforms and government aid to Indians and minorities, and it wants to purge the economy of foreign interests. Thus it strongly opposes the policies of the Febres-Cordero administration—a fiscally conservative, pro-US government that supports free enterprise and encourages foreign investment. []

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Up until now, AVC "terrorist" operations, although not entirely bloodless, have consisted mainly of media-oriented efforts to gain maximum publicity for its views while minimizing damage and casualties. This

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year, for example, in addition to at least six bank robberies, the AVC reportedly:

- Attacked a military customs post and captured weapons in March.¹
- Detonated a leaflet bomb outside the US Embassy and briefly occupied the Ecuadorean News Agency in May.
- Briefly occupied the studios of three radio stations and kidnaped the Director of the Ecuadorean National Radio Network in August.
- Briefly occupied the Costa Rican Embassy in October. [REDACTED]

Although most of these actions were political propaganda operations—the radio stations were occupied only long enough to force them to broadcast AVC manifestos, and the kidnaped network director was held hostage for the same reason—they were nevertheless accomplished through force of arms and involved explicit threats of harm to innocent persons unless they cooperated. Thus, although AVC operations have not yet caused any serious damage or harm, they have definitely been terrorist in nature.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] the AVC is seeking aid from foreign sources known to support leftwing terrorist groups. Rosa Cardenas Hernandez, a leading member of the group, was arrested last summer in Costa Rica while on an alleged fund-raising trip to Panama and Nicaragua. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] AVC members also have contact with the leftwing Colombian insurgent group, the 19th of April Movement (M-19), from which they may be receiving guidance and training. [REDACTED]

Outlook

The AVC seems to have become considerably radicalized by the arrests of several leading members

¹ One soldier was shot and wounded during this attack. So far, he has been the only casualty of AVC operations. [REDACTED]

last summer. When the trial of five AVC members ended in their conviction and imprisonment last October, members of the group began seriously discussing ways in which they could acquire hostages to barter for their comrades. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

The proposed operations are more audacious and dangerous—both to the targets and to the AVC personnel involved—than any the group has attempted so far. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] it does not seem likely that the group has fully realized either the difficulties or the implications of the operations it is considering. The AVC members may have merely been engaging in wishful thinking; or they may have been serious until they looked more closely at the possible ramifications of a failed operation. Or they may actually try something, thinking they can bring an operation off successfully without undue risk to themselves. The group is clearly on the brink of a profound and possibly irreversible step. Many other idealistic but radicalized groups have been in their position: some have looked down and then stepped back; others have leaped forward into out-and-out terrorism. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] the primary objective of the AVC is to develop into a full-scale insurgent movement. Currently, however, the group does not possess the size, experience, materiel, or national or foreign support that would be needed to mount an insurgency that could threaten the Ecuadorean Government. Moreover, if it continued to concentrate

[REDACTED]

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its efforts in Quito and Guayaquil, the AVC would have to do without a secure base area—generally the sine qua non of a successful insurgency. Thus the AVC effort would necessarily take the form of urban terrorism. Urban guerrillas have not succeeded elsewhere in Latin America, and there is no reason to suppose they would fare any better in Ecuador. Moreover, the AVC's efforts to date lack both the daring and the viciousness typical of South American urban terrorist groups. Many AVC members probably hold rather romantic and unrealistic views of urban guerrilla warfare, and they may find they lack the stomach for it.

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Thus the seriousness of the terrorist threat posed by the AVC will depend partly on how well this nascent guerrilla group can organize itself, recruit new members, and acquire both indigenous and foreign assistance. But it will also depend on whether the current members really know what they are getting into and on whether, once they do realize it, they still want to proceed. Preoccupied with improving Ecuador's faltering economy and dealing with government infighting, the Febres-Cordero administration has not taken Alfaro Vive, Carajo very seriously so far. Only time will tell whether this complacency was warranted.

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Chronology of Terrorism—1984

Below are described noteworthy foreign and international terrorist events and counterterrorism developments that have occurred or come to light since our last issue. Events and developments that have already been described elsewhere in this publication are not included.

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2 November

Mozambique: Ruling party (FRELIMO) office bombed by Mozambican National Resistance (RENAMO). The bomb caused a fire and resulted in an unknown number of casualties.

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20 November

Israel: Three members of Terror Against Terror sentenced to prison terms of six years with three more years suspended. They had been convicted of bombing Christian and Muslim holy places last year. The three-judge panel said the reduced sentences were warranted by the defendants' remorse and the fact that they had not understood the gravity of their offenses.

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21 November

Angola: UNITA releases 14 foreign hostages. The three Bulgarian and 11 Portuguese hostages, including men, women, and children, had been captured in central Angola and forced to walk to Jama before being freed. Upon release, they were flown to South Africa.

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Late November

Lebanon: Abu Musa suffers light stroke after making speech in Taalbaya. According to press reports, the Fatah rebel leader is recovering in a Damascus hospital.

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28 November

Jerusalem: Police defuse bomb found at bus stop. No group claimed responsibility for placing the 4-kilogram device.

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Israel: Bomb explosion near apartment house in Petah Tiqva starts large fire. The fire caused extensive damage but no casualties. In a radiobroadcast from Baghdad, Fatah claimed responsibility for placing the bomb.

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29 November

Lebanon: Car bomb kills four and wounds at least 13 in Druze mountain town of Alayh. Druze leaders blamed the attack on "collaborators" of Israel.

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Lebanon: Car bomb explodes in South Beirut, killing one person. No group claimed responsibility for the attack.

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30 November

Spain: Leading member of First of October Antifascist Resistance Group (GRAPO) arrested in Madrid. Javier Ros Diaz is believed to have been responsible for numerous acts of violence including assassinations and kidnappings. []

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Early December

Mozambique: At least 13 people killed and mutilated in two RENAMO attacks on Laranjeira. Other civilians were wounded and women were raped by the attackers. []

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2 December

Mexico: Four American Jehovah's Witnesses kidnaped in Guadalajara. No ransom request has been made. Local officials suspect a conservative Catholic group opposed to proselytizing by other religious groups may have been responsible. []

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3 December

Israel: Bomb found in main shopping area of resort town of Netanya. The police dismantled the bomb, which would have caused many casualties had it exploded. Palestinian terrorists are believed to have planted the device. []

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Peru: Sendero Luminoso celebrates birthday of of its founder with bombings. Eight explosions in honor of Abimael Guzman took place in Lima, but the greatest impact was in the Mantaro River valley, where bombs took out two electric transmission towers. No injuries were reported. []

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Spain: Assaults in Mondragon attack car carrying civil guards, wounding three. The ETA is believed responsible. []

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4 December

Peru: Two policemen killed while guarding bank in Lima. The assailants, probably from Sendero Luminoso, reportedly fired without warning and made off with their victims' weapons. []

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5 December

Chile: US-Chilean binational center in Valparaiso bombed. The bomb, which caused considerable damage but no casualties, was of a shrapnel type, meaning the unknown attackers probably wanted to cause casualties. []

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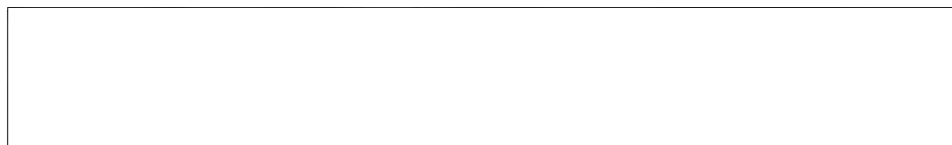
6 December

Mozambique: Eight foreigners among 13 killed in RENAMO ambush. Seven East Germans and one Yugoslav, along with five Mozambicans, were killed and two East Germans were wounded in the attack in Niassa Province. RENAMO often targets foreign agricultural and technical advisers to the Mozambican Government. []

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7 December

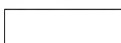
Chile: Bomb explodes in Santiago subway station, wounding four people. The bomb had been emplaced by four male teenagers who got away after exchanging shots with a guard who surprised them. The guard was wounded by the explosion, as were two station employees and a bystander. 

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Bolivia: Narcotics police lieutenant murdered in Cochabamba by drug traffickers. Two informants were also killed, and two police officers were wounded. Two other policemen were held hostage but later rescued. 


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8 December

El Salvador: Brother of airborne battalion commander kidnaped by guerrillas. After haranguing him for 24 hours, the guerrillas released him unharmed. It was the third incident of this kind in what appears to be an FMLN campaign to intimidate El Salvador's military leadership by harassing members of their families. 


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9-10 December


France: Action Directe conducts bombings in support of New Caledonian separatists. The bombs exploded at the headquarters of the neo-Gaullist opposition party RPR and the French oil company ELF-Aquitane, causing extensive damage but no casualties. Action Directe asserted they were in retaliation for the deaths of 10 Melanesian separatists in New Caledonia. 

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10 December


Norway: Bomb hoax disrupts Nobel Peace Prize award ceremony in Oslo. The ceremony honoring South Africa's Archbishop Tutu was delayed for more than an hour after an unidentified phone caller speaking broken Norwegian falsely alleged that a bomb had been placed in the auditorium. 

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France: FNLC car bomb explodes outside Marseilles police headquarters. The bomb caused only slight injuries to two persons but major damage to the building. 

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11 December

France: GAL bomb injures wrong victim in Hendaye. A Spanish refugee was injured when the bomb detonated in a friend's car. The Anti-Terrorist Liberation Group (GAL) claimed credit for the bombing but admitted it had actually been targeting the owner of the car. 

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12 December

Argentina: Bomb explodes at building housing Montonero leader Mario Firmenich. No one has taken credit for the attack on the federal courthouse, which injured two policemen and caused considerable damage. The target may not have been Firmenich, since hearings involving former high-level military officials were also taking place in the building. [REDACTED]

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Greece: Syrian Charge d'Affaires exchanges shots with three unidentified gunmen in Athens. Since he scared them away, no one knows who they were. [REDACTED]

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13 December

France: Government employment offices in Brittany bombed by separatists. The Breton Liberation Front/Breton Revolutionary Army claimed credit for the bombings in Brest and Lannion, which caused damage but no casualties. These were the first terrorist attacks by the group since November 1983. [REDACTED]

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14 December

Spain: Three policemen shot and wounded in Madrid by unknown assailants. ETA was probably responsible. [REDACTED]

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Lebanon: Army officer assassinated in West Beirut by unknown assailants. A soldier accompanying him was also killed. The officer, a Druze, was alleged to be an Israeli operative, which may be why he was killed, although he reportedly also had personal enemies. [REDACTED]

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Mozambique: Eleven persons, including two foreigners, killed in RENAMO ambush. One of the foreigners was identified as a Portuguese. The victims were shot and stabbed, and their trucks were burned after they were intercepted on the road to Maputo. [REDACTED]

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Italy: Fatah official Ismael Darwish gunned down in Rome. Although the PLO office in Kuwait accused Israeli agents of conducting the assassination, it might also have been the work of an anti-Arafat Palestinian group. [REDACTED]

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Italy: Attempted Red Brigades robbery of armored car foiled by security guards in Rome. One terrorist was killed, a second was wounded and captured, and a third escaped on foot. [REDACTED]

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17 December

[REDACTED]

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